

THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN



NEWS IN BRIEF

A N alarming rise in the number of robberies has been reported in the past few weeks. Daring pickpockets are operating in the larger stores, the cinemas and street markets. A wellorganised gang is believed to be at work. The police are using their best men to put a stop to this public scandal.





How about starting in the Old Street Market? Tintin said he was going there this morning, Perhaps we'll meet him.

















See? You've always got to haggle a bit, here.







But that's absurd!... You must have left it at home ... or perhaps you've lost it?



Here, you hold these sticks. I'll pay.



Just the sort of thing that would happen to you!... To go and let someone pinch your wallet!







Here, let me pay for them.

Thanks very much, Fintin, We'll pay











































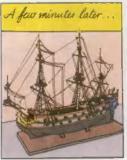






Look here: I want to give this ship to a friend of mins. I'm not selling it, so please don't pes-ter me any more!







It really is superb ...





Forgive me if 1 am too insistent. But as l'explainad, 1 m a callector - a collector of model ships. And 1 would be so very grateful if you would agree to sell me your ship.



Exactly! Now! have other ships just as good as yours, and we could exchange them so that your friend...



Very well. But think it over. I'll give you my card, so that if you change your mind

















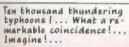


























But just take a closer look at that ship in the background ...





It's just like the one you saw in my room, isn't it?

> Exactly!... It's the same ship!... Don't you think that's remarkable ?

There's a name here. Look there, in tiny letters: UNICORN

> So there is: UNICORN. I'd never noticed it.



Maybe there's a mame on mine too ... We should have brought it along. Wait here: ['Il go and fatch it.



If mine has the same name, that'll really be funny ...









Hello?...Yes...Ah, it's you... Well, has your ship got the same name?... What did you say?... It's been stolen?

















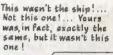














Well, sir, we can soon tell.
Just after you'd gone, my
ship fell over and the mainmast was broken. I put
it back, but you can see
where it broke. So we'll
look at your mainmast,
if you don't mind!





I can understand your surprise. I myself was awazed to find an exact replica of my own vessel in the Old Street Market. And because it seamed so odd, I did all I could to







it's extremely oad!
Two ships exactly
like the one in the
Captain's picture...
and with the same
Hame:
UNICORN.







It really is unbelievable how long people can chatter on the telephone! More than a quarter of an hour! Ah, at last!











My door's open!... What can be the matter now?...







This one is completely ruined!...
The vandals!





Burgled twice in one day . . . Not bad at all!



What have they taken this time?





They've only searched the place... I wonder what they were looking for ?...





Hello. How are you?... Good heavans! Whatevers happened ?



Er ... nothing really .. just a little spot of bother in the Old Street Er 465 a slight me Market understanding. Anyway, we've come to pay you the money for those sticks. We called last might. but you were out.

Did you get your wallet back all right?

I'm afraid not. But I bought a new one this morning, and .. ดหล้า.



been ropped again!

Great Scotland Yard . That man we met last night on the stairs, on our way here!... I remember now: he bumped into me!



Quite tall. coarse features ... black hair ... small black moustache, blue suit... brown hat.



But he couldn't have stolen your wallet last night, when you only baught it this morning



Miscrable thieves! A brand new wallet! Come along, Thomson, we must report this right away!



He's right! . We must report it at once.











Poor old Thomsons, tuey do nave rotten luck! There scems to be quite on ep demic of



Oh weil, let's try and get these papers sorted out



What are you after Snowy?



A cigaratte, under there? That's a funny place...

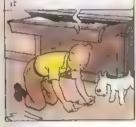




Why, it's not a cigarette, it's a little scroll of parch-



But this sent mine ! Where ever did it come from?... Let's wave a closer look at

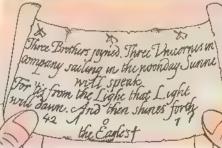




Here's another mystery !







But its all gibberich! And where on earth did this parchment come from, anyway ?



Great snakes! I've got it... This parchment must have been rolled up inside the mast of the ship It fell out when the mast was broken, and it rolled under the chast...



And that explains something else!
.. Whoever stole my ship knew that the parchiment was hidden there. When he discovered the scroll had gons, he thought I must have found it. That's why the thief came back and searched my flat, never guessing the parchiment was under the chest...

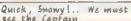
Sherlock Holmes!

But why was he so anxious to get hold of it? If only it made some sense then at least.



I wonder .
But . of course!
That must
be it! There's
no other answer











certain it must be treas ure.

Yes. I'm absolutely

The old lazybones!
He's still in bed!









lil? He might be His light's been on all night..

















































In the chest I found this hat and cutlass, and also



No, not treasure, but something like it!... Old manuscripts by Sir Francis Haddock ... Look, I started reading them yesterday read all night...



I was still reading when you came in That's why you found me a little... over-excited. But what a story! Just listen to it!



It is the year 1876 The UNICORN a valiant ship of King Charles E's freet, has left Barbados in the West Indies, and est sail for home Ske carries a cargo of... well, anyway, there's a good deal of rum aboard...





Two days at sea, a good stiff preeze, and the UNICORN is reaching on the starboard tack Sudden-ly there's a haif aloft...





Thundering typhoons! She's mighty close hauled! Ration my nam f not going to cut across our bows! sne's



And she's making a spanking pace' Ono' she's running up her colours Now we'll see...











Turning on to the wind with all sails set, risking her masts, the UNICORN tries to outsail the dreaded Barbary buccancers ...





Thundering typhoons! It's no use
She's overhauling us fast!



They must out wit the pirates
The Captain makes a daring plan
He'll wear ship, then pay off on the
port tack. As the UNICORN comes
abreast of the pirate he'll loose
off a broadside... No sooner
said than done!



Ready about! Let go braces!.. Beat gunners to quarters!





The UNICORN has gybed completely round. Taken by surprise, the pirabes have no time to alter course. The royal ship bears down upon them... Steady...











Got her, yes' But not a crip ping bow The pinate ship in turn goes about and look' shos noisted Fresh colours to the mast head'





The red pennant! No quarter given! A fight to the death, no prisoners taken! You under stand? If we're beaten, then it's every man to Davy Jones's locker!



The pirates take up the chase - they draw closer... and closer... Throats are dry aboard the UNICORN,





Close hauled, the enemy falls in line astern with UNICORN, avoiding the fire of her guns ... She draws closer...





Then she resumes her course. The two ships are now alongside. The boarders prepare for action...





Here they come 'Grap pling irons are hur to from the enemy ship. With hideous yells the pirates stream aboard the UNICORN.













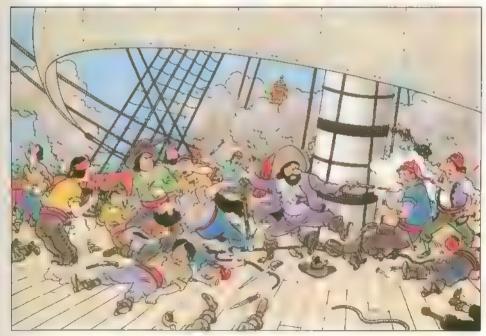


































Sir Francis? . When he came round he Pound himself securely lashed to his own mast. He suffered terming...







Paor man, how he suffered.





He looked about him. The deck was scrubbed, and no trace remained of the fearful combat that had taken place there The prates passed to and Fro, each with a different load.



What's nappening? Instead of pil laging our ship and making off with the booty, they re doing just the opposite



But there's a man approaching. He wears a crimeon cloak, embroidered with a skull; he s the pirate chief! He comes near-his breath reeks of rum, and he saye





Doesn't my name freeze your blood, sh? Right. Lieten to me. You have killed Diego the Dreadful, my trusty mate. More than half my crew are dead or wounded. My ship is foundering, damaged by your first attack, then holed below the water me as we boarded



. when some of your destardly gunners fired at point blank range. She's sinking...so my men are transferring to this ship the booty we captured from a Spaniard three days









No, that's not why I came.
I cams to tall you that those who annoy me pay dearly for their folly! I comorrow morning I snall nand you over to my crew. And that flock of lambs know just how to administrating death!



That's snough, Captain Go on with your story.



Very well. Towards nightfall, the UNICORN with hor prate crew sighted a small island soon she dropped anchor in a sheltered cove...





Darkness Fall; the printee found the UNICORN's cargo of rum, broached the casks, and made themselves abominably drunk.







Abominably 1 ...









That's funny! Now there are two glasses!





In the meantime Sir Francis struggled desperately to free himself..



Just you walt, my lambkins! Ration my rum if Sir Francis Haddock doesn't soon give you comething to remember



Done it! That's one hand free!



Free ! Now I'm



On your quard, Red Rackham, here I come!



And with these words he



No, on a bottle
of rum, rolling
on the deck!..
He opened it,
put it to his



And then he stops. "This is no time for drinking." he says, "I need all my wits about me!" With that, he puts down the bottle...



Yes, he puts down the bottle,... and seizes a cultase, Then, looking towards the fo'c'sle where the drunken roistering still goes on,...

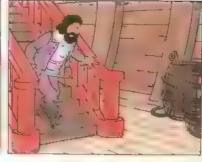


You sing and carouse, little lambe!... I'm off to the magazine!



You know, of course, the magazine in a ship is where they store the gunpowder and shot...







Now I must make maste '
There's just time for me
to leave the snip before
she goes up'















And as he fought Sir francis kept th nking of teat fire, about to touch off the powder at any mo ment

Suddenly, nimbly parrying a thrust he leapt to one side.





Now, Red Rackhem, my temper's rising!









Enough delay! Now to light another fuse.





No one has seen me they're still drinking. Quick into the joby-boat...



















He made friends with the natives on the island, and lived among them for two years. Then he was picked up by a ship which carried nim back home. There his followed and But now comes the strangost thing in the whole stary...

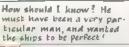


On the last page of the manuscript there is a cort of W.II, in which he bequeaths to each of his three sone a model -builtand rigged by himself - a model of the very ship he once blew up rather than leave her to the pirates. There's one funny detail i he tells his sone to move the main mast slightly aft on acch model. Thus ' ne con cludes, "the train will out"



That's it, Captain!.
Red Rackham's treasure
will be ours!





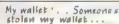


Because if his sons had obeyed him, they would have found a tiny scroll of parchment inside each wast!



What's that? How do you know?

Because I myself found the parchment hidden in the sh p. bought in the Old Street Market. Here t. 5





Stolen it 7 You've probably left it at home.



What was on the parchment?

Wait...er... yes: Three
brothers joyned - that's the
three sons. Three Unicarns in
company sailing in the moonday Summe will speak - that means
we must get the three ships to delay
er their secret, the three parchments. The restants it's o

For its from light that light will diwn And then shines forth and then some numbers, and at the end, a little cross follows the words the Eagles, that's



I don't know yet but I m sure that if we can collect the three scrolls together, then we shall find Red Rackhams a amonds I already know where the second one is Come on, Captain!



You know where the second scroll is?











































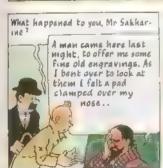
You see, if you really had been guilty, you'd have been upset. As it is, we are now quite convinced of your innocence

















Stop laughing in that studid way! Try to concentrate on the 5203



CAN YOU describe the man who came to offer you those engravings?



He was rather fat Black hair and a little black moustache He wore a bive suit, and a brown



What man in the Old Street Market ! A man who tried to buy the ship I found in the Old Street Market. You know him too he's the one you met an the Stairs on your way to see me fast night You suspec ted him of stealing your wallet





It's on clastic! Simple anough ... If you only think



Childishly simple, in fact. But now we must leave you to your investigations. Goodbye .





Look, someone seems to be waiting for us outside my door





Yes, What can I do for you?

I d I he a word with you, please Mr Tintin But not here, if you don't mind It would be quicker n your flat...





















Next morning

SHOOTING DRAMA

N unknown man was shot dead in Labrador Road just before midday yesterday. As he was about to enter No. 26, three shots were fired from a passing car which had slowed down opposite him. The victim was struck by all three bullets in the region of the heart. He died without regaining consciousness





Helio, Captain' Come in I m just telephon ing the hospital for news of the wounded



Hello 2 Is that the House Surgeon This is Tintin Good morning, Doctor How's our in ured man 1 Just the same? Still unconscious? ... is there any hope? A little ...



But look here: it says in the paper that he's dead

> Yes, the papers were told he'd died The crooks will believe he didn't give them away, so they won't be on their award.



Ah, I see now But 1 still wonder what that poor chap meant, pointing at those sparrows..



Another day watching for pickpockets all over the place.







































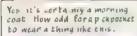














The trouble is that the coat doesn't give us any clue about its owners identity



Look at these stitches they make up a number. That means the loat has been to the cleaners recently.





So.. to find the thief's name and address, we've only got to trace the cleaners who use this mark. Quick, we'll make a list of cleaners from the telephone directory, and start hunting for the thief at once'

























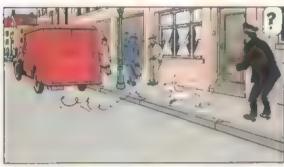
































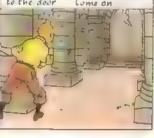






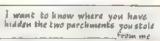














Come on now, let's be sensible! I a collected two of the three scrolls you took them from me. That night when I had your flat searched, only the third one was found . . In your watlet. Where are the other two!



























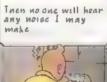
















Fret I il unot these sheets and biankets together

Then the them securely to this basm...



























Now I'll the a small stone to the end of this string, like this ...

















































So, my friend, you thought you'd be smart and hide in a suit of armour. Well, you're caught: come on out!



You won't ! That's too bad for you! I'll count up to three and then I fire. One... two...









Yes, it's nothing. A bullet ricocheted off the armour and struck that gong over there. Come on, don't let's waste time...



When' What luck!
.. They've gone
past. I'll just
slip out ...









Stupid | That's not Tintin: it's acuckocclock striking Come, let's get on with it

























































Now I see what he meantthe man who was shot pointing to the birds He was giving us the name of his attackers! ... Just look at this letter...







Hello yes its me yes Whos speaking? What?
Tintin!..., I... Where are you? Hello?... Hello?...
He lo?... Hello? Are you there?



What am I doing here 2 [er I m Mr Bird's new secretary.
Didn't you know that !



l . no i hadn't heard Please excuse me sir.





Hello, Nestort... A young ruffian's broken into the nouse! Stop him telephoning his accomplices! Were coming at once. Don't let him get away, whatever you do!



Hella, Captain I im at Marin spike Hall... Bring the police!

Prop that tele phone you Greece - in Marinspike Hall





What?... Martin's b ke? Hello? Hello? . Thunder ing typhoons? What's going on?





















































































































We can have a nice comfortable chat there while we wait for the police to arrive...



























Where are they going ²
... Oh, I see that
little wretch is taking
care to put Brutus
back in his nennel



They're coming back this way they'll pass under the ground-floor mindows fernaps there's some way.





















You, walk in front! I don't have to tell you- one false move and I'll shoot you like a dog!





























vet me go' I neep teil ng you it's all a mistake I in not the one to arrest.



Ah here cama Thomson and Thompson. It's this little ruffian, this little wreton wno broke into the house and terrorized my masters hes a real gangster, Mr



Its true, Nestor acted in good faith I reard his master say I was a crimnal Nestor be eved it



Then your masters are the criminals Look what's left of my bottle of three-star bran-day. It's all had what's more, their fault!... we have a warrant



My wallet! My wat let! It's incredible!



But your wallets there ...

That's just what's incredible, no one has stolen it!

By the way, what about that pickpocket ... Have you managed to lay hands on him?



We got his name from the Stellar Cleaners: he's called Ar stides Silk. We were just about to pull him in when we were ordered to arrest the Bird brothers, and here we are.





Gentlemen, there has been a miscarriage of justice! This man is innocent, as Tintin said. Won't you take off these handcuffs... and let him go and fetch me another bottle



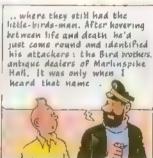
There, my man, now you're free. And we'll use these handoutts for your masters!

































Now, my friend, I'm waiting for an explanation...

I'm saying nothing!

Perhaps you don't know that your victim recovered yesterday, and divuiged Our victim?

L...Barnaby wasn't dead

Vary well: I d betten telt you sverything. When we bought this house, two years ago, we found a little model snip in the attic, in very poor condition...



Yes, and when we were trying to restore the model we came across the parchmant: its message intrigued us. My brother Max soon dacided it referred to a treasure. But it spoke of three unicorns, so the first thing was to find the other two... You know we are antique dealers. We set to



We used all our contacts: the people who comb the markets for interesting antiques; the people who hunt through attics; we told them to find the two ships. After some weeks one of our spies, a man called Barnaby came and said hed seen a similar ship in the Old Street Mar-

kat. Unfortunately, this suip had just been sold to a young man Barnaby tried in vain to buy it from him. Yes, we know the rest. It was Barnaby whom you ordered to steal my UNICAN. But because the parchment wasn't there, he came back and ransacked the place-again unsuccessfully And then?



Barnaby came back empty-handed Then he suddenly remembered the atner man who'd been trying to buy the ship from you.



That's right. But after he'd given it to me, he and Max quarrelled violently about the money we'd agreed he should have. Barnaby demanded more, but Max stuck to the original sum. Finally Barnaby went, furiously angry and saying we'd regret our meanness. When he'd gone, Max got told feet supposing the wretch betrayed us? We jumped nto the car and traited him; our fears were justified. We saw him speaking

... to you. Paniching in case he'd given the whole game away, Max caught up with you in a few escende, and shot Barnaby as he stepped into your doorway.



We told you: to make you give up the two parchments you had stolen from us a few days after the

snooting, I see. But I couldn't have stoten them as I didn't know you existed! But I wonder... Perhaps it was.

Yes, perhaps it was Mr Sakharine who took the two scrolls?



Hurrah! That's at!

















One! Great snakes! we haven't even got that! The Bird brothers took it! But we can get it back!



GIVE ME BACK the parcument you stole From My room!



Give it back ? ... That's im possible ... Max has it in



Ring up the police- station at once, give them a description of Man Bird, and his car number. LX 188 Then we'll go straight back to town ..



Next morning Mr Sakharine. Now For



Mr Sakharinas He's gone away, young man. He won't be back for a fortинань



WHERE ARE

He would be away! That doesn't make tuings any sasier!



In the meantime 1'11 40 and see the Thomsons Perhaps they'll be able to tell me they've found Man Bird.



Good morning Are you going out 1 ... I just came to ask ¥04..



You'll soon see ... we going!









I'm sorry to interrupt you, Mr. Silk, but could you explain the meaning of all this?...





I...er, yes... Well, I...
you see, I'm not a thief:
cortainly not! But I'm a bit
ofa... kleptomaniac. It's
comething stronger than
I am: I adore wallets. So
I... I upst Find one
from time to time. I puta
label on it. with the
awner's name



I venture to say, gentlemen, that this is a unique collection of its kind. And when I tell you that it only took me three months to accemble you'll agree that it's a remarkable achievement



I wonder if by some extraordinary coincidence...







And here are the two pieces of parchusent!... Captain, Red Rackham's breasure is ours!









"Property of

Froperty of Thomson... property of Thompson... Thomson... Thompson ...Thomson... Thompson... Thomson ...Thomson... Thompson... Thompson...



Next day ...

Red Rackham's treasure is ours: it's daey enough to say. We've found two of the scrolls, I know, but we still haven't got the third...





Hello?... Ves, it's me ... Good morning... What I you've gorested him I...



Not exactly, but thanks to the cluss we gave, they managed to catch him trying to leave the country



What about the third parchment? ... Did you find it on him?...



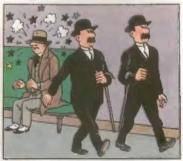
Yes, he had it. We're bringing it along to you. But first we've got a little account to settle with this troublesome antique dealer...

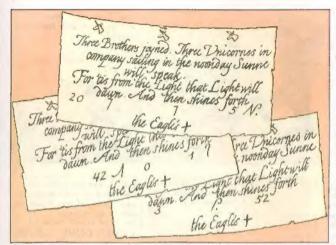


Here, Thompson, hold my stick while I just deal with this gentleman...









No! No! and No! You can go on hunting if you want to, but I've had enough: I give up. Blistering barnacles to that pirate Red Rackham, and his treasure! I'd sooner do without it: I'm not racking my brains any more trying to make sense out of that gibberich! Thundering typhoans! What a thirst it's given me!



I've got it, Captain!...
I've got it!...

The message is right when it says that it is "from the light that light will dawn!" Look, I put them together.,.



... and hold them, "sailing in company" in front of the light. Look now! See what comes through!...









Now, Captain... When do we leave on our treasurehunt?



Let's see... Pirst we need a ship... We can charter the SiRIUS, a trawler belonging to my friend, Captain Cheeker... Then we need a crew, some diving suits and all the right equipment for this sort of expedition... That will take us a little time to arrange. We'n better was a worth. Yee, In a month we could be read of to lease.





But of course it won't be easy, and we shall certainly have plenty of adventures on our treasure-hunt... You can read about them in RED RACKHAM'S TREASURE



HEROE

